

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 206318

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ORIGIN ORM-03

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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, BE

SUBJECT: EX-SOVIET JEWS IN BELGIUM AWAITING RESETTLEMENT

REF: BRUSSELS 7017

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE PASSED TO BELGIAN GOVERN-
MENT OR PRESS INQUIRY. U.S. IS AWARE THAT A SUBSTANTIAL
NUMBER OF SOVIET REFUGEES WHO EMIGRATED TO ISRAEL HAVE LEFT
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THAT COUNTRY SEEKING RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE, PARTICULARLY

IN THE UNITED STATES OR CANADA. THE TOTAL NUMBERS HAVE INCREASED GREATLY OVER THE PAST YEAR. THERE ARE TWO ASPECTS TO THE PROBLEM: ADMITTANCE INTO A NEW COUNTRY OF RESETTLEMENT; MAINTENANCE AND ASSISTANCE WHILE AWAITING RESETTLEMENT.

2. THERE ARE TWO BROAD CATEGORIES OF SOVIET JEWISH REFUGEES APPLYING FOR RESETTLEMENT IN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN ISRAEL: THOSE WHO MAKE THEIR INTENTIONS KNOWN IN VIENNA ENROUTE TO ISRAEL; THOSE WHO GO TO ISRAEL AND RETURN TO WESTERN EUROPE AFTER VARYING PERIODS IN ISRAEL. FOR US ENTRY PURPOSES, ALL ARE CONSIDERED TO MEET THE STATUTORY CRITERIA OF SECTION 203(A)(7) OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT (7TH PREFERENCE) AND CAN BE PROCESSED PROVIDED THEY MEET OTHER ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA IN THE ACT. HOWEVER, THOSE WHO RETURN TO WESTERN EUROPE FROM ISRAEL MUST DEMONSTRATE TO THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN FIRMLY RESETTLED IN ISRAEL BEFORE DEPARTING THAT COUNTRY. THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FIRMLY RESETTLED ARE NOT CONSIDERED FOR ENTRY UNDER 7TH PREFERENCE BUT MUST OBTAIN IMMIGRANT VISAS INSTEAD IF THEY WISH TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES. IN GENERAL, INS CONSIDERS HOLDERS OF LAISSEZ PASSERS NOT TO HAVE BEEN FIRMLY RESETTLED.

3. AS WITH NATIONALS OF OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, SOVIET CITIZENS CAN REGISTER WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FOR RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE UNDER THE U.S. REFUGEE PROGRAM (USRP). THERE HAS BEEN NO REPEAT NO INTERRUPTION OF FUNDING BY USG, THOUGH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HAVE BEEN WARNED THAT FUNDS ARE LIMITED. SOME OF THE AGENCIES HAVE STOPPED REGISTERING HOLDERS OF ISRAELI PASSPORTS BUT ALL ARE CONTINUING TO REGISTER HOLDERS OF LAISSEZ PASSER DOCUMENTS.

4. ACCORDING TO VOLUNTARY AGENCY SOURCE IN U.S., BELGIUM NOW IS ALSO RESTRICTING ADMISSION OF SOVIET JEWS FROM ISRAEL. THIS WAS CONFIRMED IN WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE TODAY. KISSINGER

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